

Abstract

Methods are provided for increasing and altering the timing of antibiotic production in *Streptomyces* species, particularly *S. coelicolor* and *S. lividans*, by functionally deleting the *S. coelicolor scbA* and *scbR* genes, respectively, or their homologues. Also provided are strains having such mutations, and methods of producing antibiotics using such strains. Also provided are methods for identifying strains in which functional deletion of the *scbA* and/or *scbR* genes or their homologues leads to the above effects.